

February 17, 2003

Commerce Under Secretary For Economic Affairs to Visit St. Louis Region with
Congressman Akin to Promote President's Economic Growth Proposal
Local Business to Receive Prestigious Commerce Dept. Award

ST. LOUIS, MO- On February 20, Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), recently named chairman of the House Small Business Subcommittee on Workforce, Empowerment and Government Programs welcomes Dr. Kathleen Cooper, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, as she visits St. Louis to tour a local small business success story and to meet with business and community leaders to discuss President Bush's economic growth proposal.

Congressman Akin and Dr. Cooper will hold a press conference at m.Carder Industries in Fenton regarding the day's events, the importance of the President's economic growth proposal and the awarding of the Commerce Department's prestigious Export Achievement Award to m.Carder Industries. The press conference will be preceded by a meeting with m.Carder owners and managers and subsequent plant tour. The plant tour is open to media for b-roll and photo opportunities.

m.Carder Industries started in a home basement in 1970 and has grown into an operation with an 18,000 square foot facility with sales in over 25 countries. m.Carder's products include gas nozzles designed to reduce damage and chance of fire and explosion when drivers accidentally pull away from gas pumps while their vehicles are still attached.

As Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Dr. Cooper serves as the principal economic adviser to Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans. Dr. Cooper's responsibilities include advising Secretary Evans on economic trends and policy and communicating the President's economic agenda.

WHAT:

Under Secretary Dr. Kathleen Cooper and Congressman Akin will tour plant (photo and b-roll opportunity), present m.Carder with Export Achievement Award and hold Press Conference on President Bush's Economic Growth Plan

WHEN:

February 20, 10:00 a.m. CT

WHERE:

m.Carder Industries
1634 Manufacturers Dr.
Fenton, MO

www.mcarder.com

1-888-814-0094

Congressman Akin and Dr. Cooper will also be meeting with local business and community leaders during the remainder of the day.